

TO: Appropriations Committee Members

DATE: February 7, 2009

RE: CT Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Municipal Grant Program

From: KerryAnn Kielbasa
Director of Human Services
Town of Granby

The Town of Granby operates two senior vans to transport seniors (60+) and disabled residents for medical and personal care appointments, grocery shopping, all senior center activities and community events. The vans also travel for educational, cultural and social programs, as well as special trips and exhibits. Senior Van service operates daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Evening and weekend hours are offered for special events at the Senior Center, as well as for weekend socialization day trips. The Senior Van service also provides some service for activities sponsored at senior centers in neighboring towns including East Granby and other Farmington Valley towns, as well as some weekend and evening trips.

The Town of Granby receives \$26, 998 from the State of Connecticut State Matching Grant Program For the Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation Grant. The Town of Granby is utilizing the FY 2008-09 funding to employ a full-time van driver to meet the demand for transportation for medical and personal care appointments. In FY 2009, the van service was expanded to include daily transportation for medical and personal care appointments in the local area, still maintaining an additional day for out-of town appointments. Van service is also offered for additional weekend trips including shopping and visiting.

As a direct result of the funding in FY2007-08 the vans traveled 6,100 more miles and made 1,380 more trips than the prior year. The demand for transportation for medical and personal care appointments increased by 40% over the prior fiscal year. Many day trips were scheduled multiple times in response to the demand.

The Town of Granby's van service for elderly and disabled residents will be dramatically effected by the loss of this funding. It is ironic, that the Town of Granby was recently awarded a Federal 5310 grant for the purchase of a new 14-passenger van, due to be delivered in July 2009 , but will not have funding for an employee to drive the van.

This funding is vital for the Town of Granby to continue to provide needed services for our most vulnerable and deserving residents.